

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting voice messages from a caller to a recipient over a network, said system comprising:

a first access device coupled to a network ~~and to a first communication medium~~, said first access device comprising:

a voice encoding device configured to receive a first voice signal ~~from a first voice device~~ and generate a digital message file, wherein said digital message file comprises a complete caller communication;

a first storage device capable of storing said digital message file; and

a transmission device configured to transmit said digital message file through said network; wherein said transmission device transmits said digital message file through said network after said voice encoding device completes the generation of ~~generates~~ said digital message file, and wherein said transmission of said digital message file is responsive to a caller indication;

a second access device coupled to said network, said second access device comprising:

a receiving device configured to receive said digital message file from said transmission device, responsive to said caller indication;

a second storage device capable of storing said digital message file;

a delivery notification device configured to notify of the receipt of said digital message file, said delivery notification device being responsive to said caller indication; and

a voice decoding device configured to decode said digital message file and generate a second voice signal, wherein said voice decoding device decodes said digital message file after said receiving device completes the reception of said digital message file.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said network comprises a packet-switched network.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting voice messages from a caller to a recipient over a network, said method comprising:

receiving a first voice signal by a first access device;

encoding said first voice signal into a digital message file by said first access device, wherein said digital message file comprises a complete caller communication;
and

storing said digital message file on a first storage device in said first access device;

after said step of encoding is completed, transmitting said digital message file over a network, wherein said step of transmitting is responsive to a caller indication;

receiving said digital message file from said network by a second access device responsive to said caller indication;

storing said digital message file on a second storage device in said second access device;

notifying of the receipt of said digital message file responsive to said caller indication; and

after said step of receiving is completed, decoding said digital message file and generating a second voice signal.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

transmitting a voice signal from a caller first voice device ~~at a caller location in a first service area~~ through a caller first communication medium to said first access device; ~~wherein said first voice device is a telephone and said first communication medium comprises a circuit-switched network.~~

6 – 30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~63~~ 4 wherein said caller first voice device is a telephone and said caller first communication medium comprises a circuit-switched network.

32 – 37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein said network comprises a packet-switched network.

39 - 44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~64~~ 32 wherein said recipient ~~second~~ voice device is a telephone and said recipient ~~second~~ communication medium comprises a circuit-switched network.

46 – 49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~5~~ 39 wherein said caller ~~second~~ voice device is a telephone and said caller ~~second~~ communication medium comprises a circuit-switched network.

51 – 52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2 wherein said packet-switched network is the public Internet.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 66 ~~5~~ wherein said circuit-switched network is the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein said circuit-switched network is the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45 ~~36~~ wherein said circuit-switched network is the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 wherein said packet-switched network is the public Internet.

59 – 61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein said circuit-switched network is the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

63. (New) The system of claim 1 further comprising a caller voice device and a caller telecommunication medium, wherein said caller voice device is coupled through said caller telecommunication medium to said voice encoding device.

64. (New) The system of claim 1 further comprising a recipient voice device and a recipient telecommunication medium, wherein said recipient voice device is coupled through said recipient telecommunication medium to said voice decoding device.

65. (New) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

receiving a voice signal by a recipient voice device through a recipient communication medium from said second access device.

66. (New) The method of claim 65 wherein said recipient voice device is a telephone and said recipient communication medium comprises a circuit-switched network.

67. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein destination information is received by said first access device before said transmission device transmits said digital message file.

68. (New) The system of claim 67 wherein said destination information is used to select said second access device.

69. (New) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

before said step of transmitting, receiving destination information by said first access device.

70. (New) The method of claim 69 wherein said destination information is used to select said second access device.